

Morbidity of Hispanic Adults in Tennessee, 1993

- Hispanic adults represented about 1% of adults 18 years of age and over in the Tennessee Alcohol and Other Drug Needs Assessment Survey of 1993 (79 out of a total sample size of 7,948). About 1% of adults aged 20 and over in Tennessee were Hispanic in 1996 (32,881 Hispanics out of 3,826,384 adults aged 20+).
- Fair or poor health was less likely to be reported by Hispanic adults (14%) than other adults (19%) in 1993. The former were somewhat more likely to report being disabled or functionally impaired (15% compared to 13% of non-Hispanic adults).
- Non-Hispanic females had the highest prevalence of fair or poor health (20%), while Hispanic females had the lowest prevalence (12.5%). The prevalence of fair or poor health was 16% among males regardless of Hispanic origin.
- Hispanic females had the highest prevalence of disability (19%), followed by non-Hispanic females (14%), then non-Hispanic males (11.5%). Hispanic males (10%) had the lowest prevalence of disability based on self-report.
- Similar percentages of Hispanics (13%) and non-Hispanics (12%) were hospitalized in the 12 months prior to the survey. A somewhat lower percentage of Hispanics had visited a physician (65% versus 70% of non-Hispanics) or used an emergency room in the past 12 months (18% of Hispanics and 20% of non-Hispanics).
- Hispanic adults were somewhat less likely than other adults (18% versus 22%) to report serious injury requiring medical care.
- Hispanic adults were twice as likely as non-Hispanic adults (12% versus 6%) to report having been diagnosed with or treated for diabetes.
- The prevalence of diabetes was substantially higher among Hispanic females than any other sex-race groups. Fifteen percent of Hispanic females, compared to 6% of non-Hispanic females, 8% of Hispanic males, and 6% of non-Hispanic males, reported ever being diagnosed with or treated for diabetes.
- Hypertension was more prevalent among Hispanic adults, at 30% compared to 25% of non-Hispanics.
- Hispanic males were at excess risk for hypertension. The prevalence of hypertension was 39% among Hispanic males, 19% among other males, and 25% and 28% among Hispanic females and non-Hispanic females, respectively.